

Gallants Channel
Bascule Movable
Span Bridge



Gallants Channel Bridge Replacement / US 70 Project

Presentation to the Board of Transportation
September 4, 2013

T.I.P. No. R-3307
Carteret County, NC

Agenda

- History of Project
- Current Project Issues
- Vessel Surveys / Marine Assessment Report

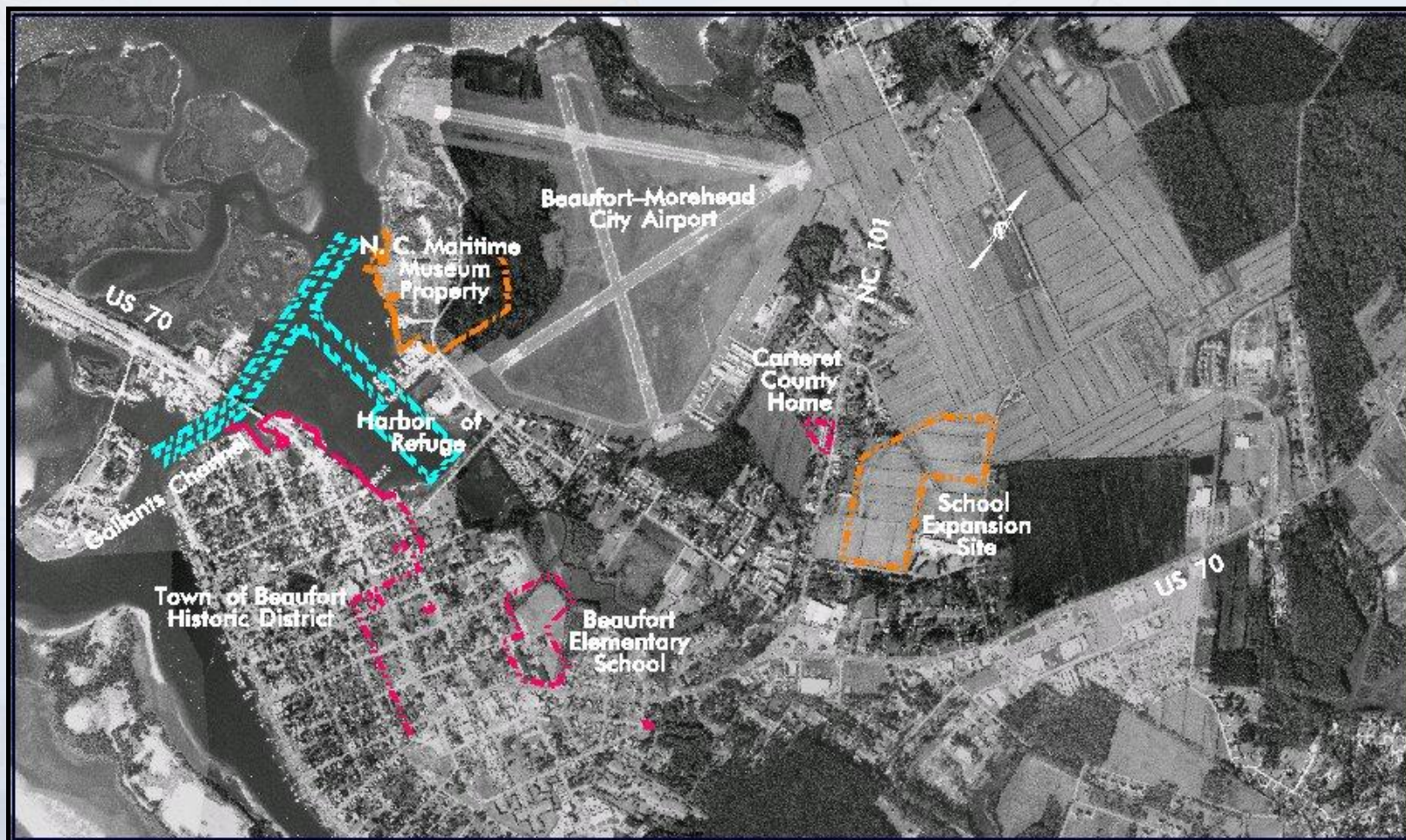
History of Project

- Begin Planning and Environmental Studies - 1998
- Proposed Improvements
 - Widen US 70 to multi-lanes
 - Replace existing drawbridge (constructed in 1958)
- Purpose of Project
 - Increase traffic carrying capacity of US 70
 - Eliminate delays to both boating and vehicular traffic due to drawbridge openings

History of Project

- Environmental Resources
 - Downtown Beaufort Historic District
 - Other Historic Properties
 - Local Marinas
 - NC Maritime Museum (Expansion Property)
 - Beaufort-Morehead City Airport
 - Harbor of Refuge
 - Wetlands and Streams
 - Elementary School and Expansion Property

History of Project



History of Project

- Merger Process

- Concurrence Point 1 (Purpose and Need) – 1998
- Concurrence Point 2 (Alternatives) – 1998, 2001, 2004
- Concurrence Point 3 (LEDPA, Preferred Alternative) – 2005
- Concurrent Points 2A, 4A (Bridging, Minimization) – 2005

- Public Involvement

- Workshops – 1998, 1999, 2000
- Public Hearing – 2004
- Bridge Height Coordination Meetings – 2007, 2008, 2009

History of Project

- 17 Alternatives, including:
 - No Build
 - Transportation System Management (TSM)
 - Maintain Existing Drawbridge
 - New Drawbridge (Mid or High Rise)
 - High Rise Fixed Span Bridge (65-ft)
 - Tunnel under Gallants Channel
 - Connectors on Queen, Pollock & Turner Streets

Study Alternatives



Preferred Alternative – Alt 2D



Proposed Bridge Over Gallants Channel



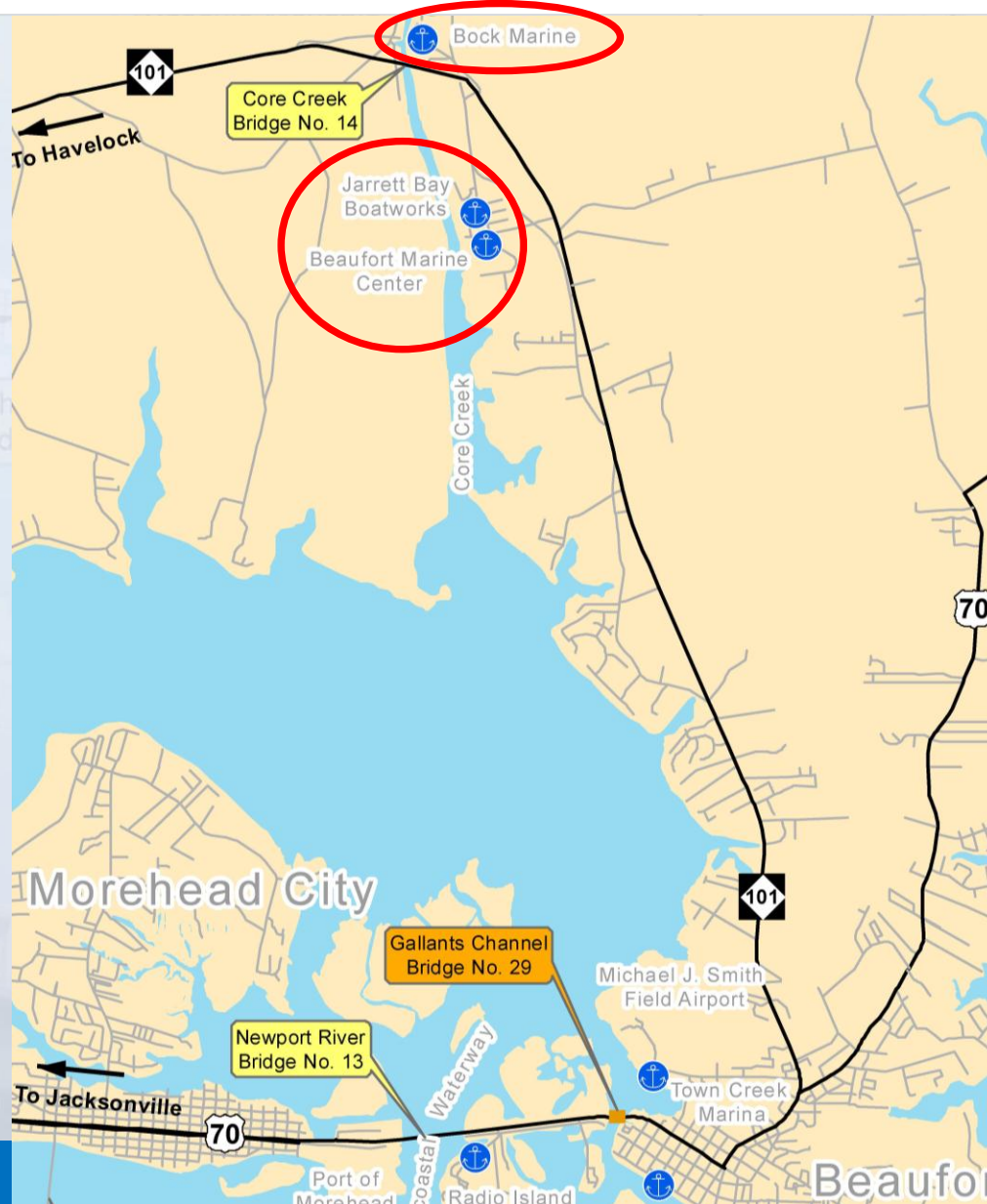
History of Project

- Environmental Documents:
 - EA approved in October 2004
 - FONSI approved in September 2006

Current Project Issues

- 2008 – New Request for Drawbridge
- Maritime Business Considerations & Maritime Museum
- Vertical Clearance/ Type of Bridge
- Airport Considerations
- Power Lines

Maritime Business Considerations



Vertical Clearance/Type of Bridge

- Vertical clearance/ Type of Bridge
 - Fixed Span vs. Opening Span
 - 65-Feet – Standard Vertical Clearance Over ICW
 - Access Restrictions to Harbor of Refuge/ Service Areas
 - What Percentage of Boating Traffic is Taller Than 65-Feet?

Airport Considerations

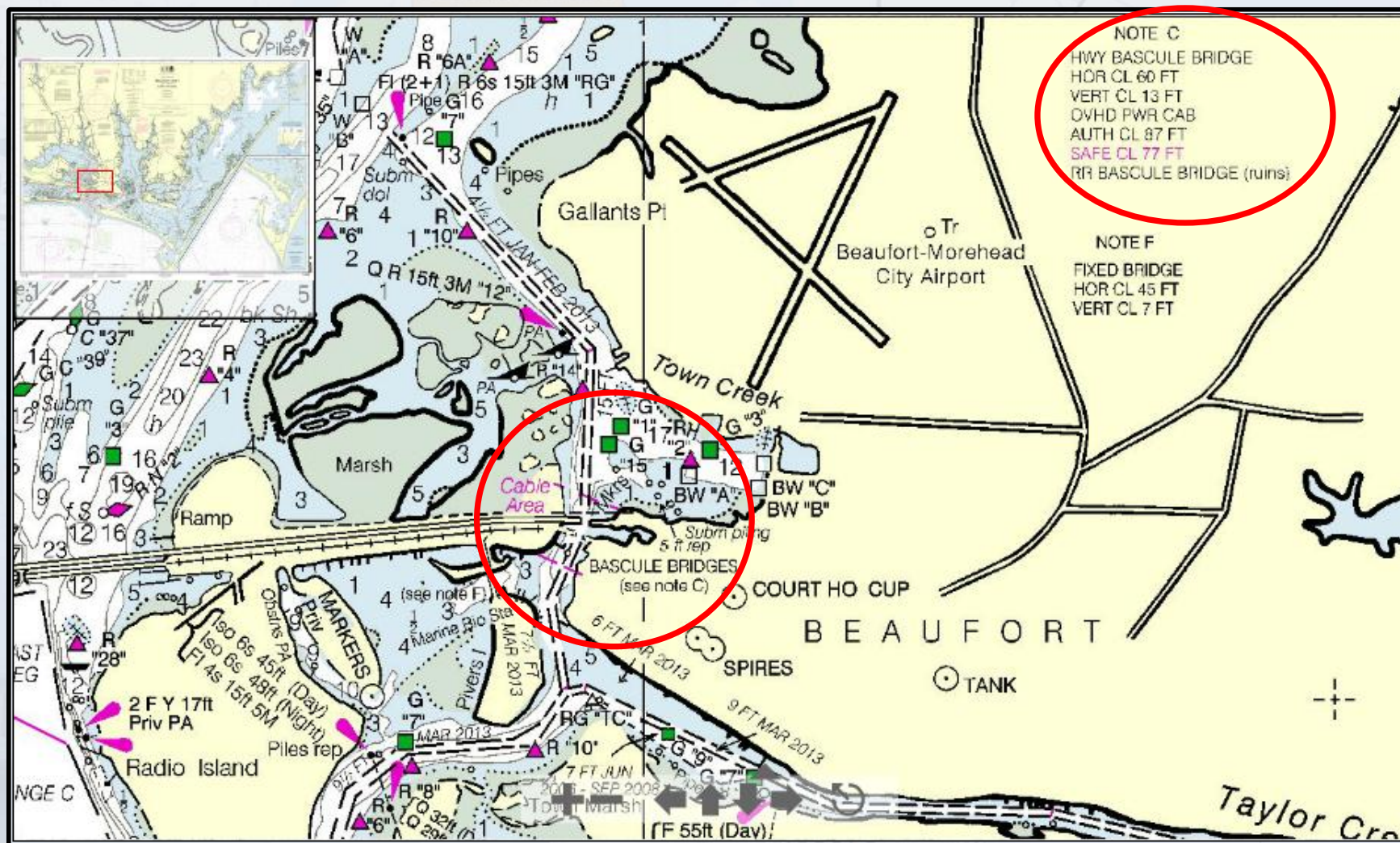
- 1944 War Assets Agreement
- FAA agreed to Limited Right of Way from Airport for US 70 Project
- Re-designation of Primary Runway
- Bridge to be Controlling Obstruction



Airport Considerations



Power Lines



Source: NOAA Chart 11545 – Beaufort Inlet and Part of Core Sound, May 2013.



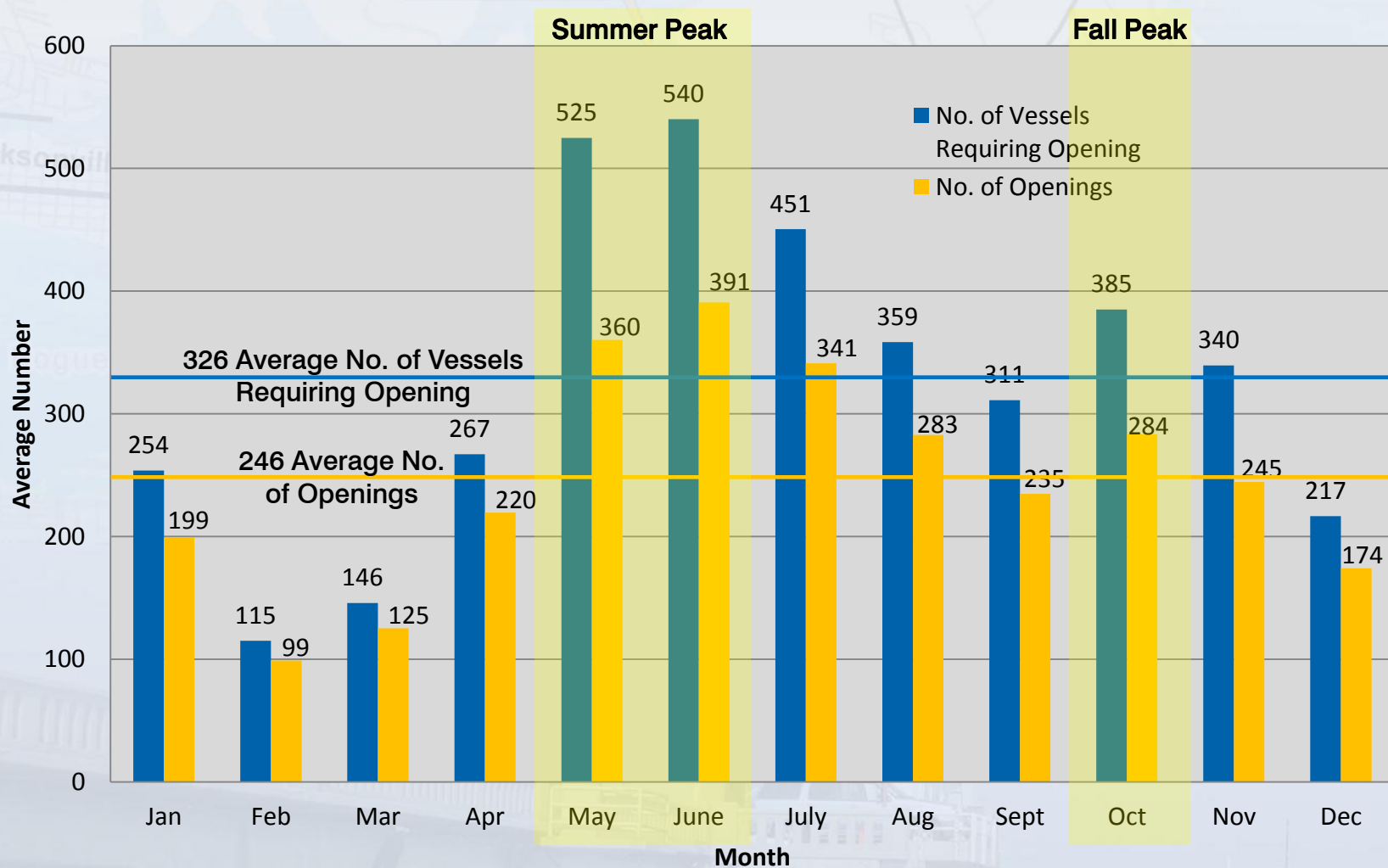
Coordination with USCG

- USCG – Decision on “Navigational Opening” (Vertical/Horizontal Clearance)
- Began Permit Process with USCG in Winter 2008/2009
- Public Comment Period Fall 2009
- Request for More Information in Summer 2011
- Vessel Surveys Required by USCG
 - August 1-21, 2012
 - October 24-26, November 10-20, 2012
 - February 1-June 30, 2013
 - Results Included in Marine Assessment Report

Marine Assessment Report

- Introduction
- Description of Existing Bridge
- Navigational Characteristics of Gallants Channel
- Vessel Traffic
 - Historic
 - Observed in Survey
 - Reported by Marinas
- Marine Traffic Assessment
- Commerce/Economic Information
- Description of Proposed Bridge
- Conclusions

Historic Logs (2009-2013)



Vessel Survey

Vessel Height Range	No. of Vessels Surveyed within Height Range	Percentage of Vessels Surveyed within Height Range	Cumulative Vessel Tally	Cumulative Vessel Percentage Tally
0-ft to 15-ft	11,722	87.3%	11,722	87.3%
15.1-ft to 30-ft	669	5.0%	12,391	92.3%
30.1-ft to 45-ft	445	3.3%	12,836	95.6%
45.1-ft to 60-ft	346	2.6%	13,182	98.2%
60.1-ft to 65-ft	111	0.8%	13,293	99.0%
65.1-ft and above	130	1.0%	13,423	100.0%
Total	13,423	100.0%	13,423	100.0%

Vessel Survey

- 78 different vessels were measured 130 times
- 24 of 78 Vessels – Commercial Fishing Vessels and Barges with Cranes
 - Lower equipment to below 65-feet
- 54 of 78 Vessels – Sailboats
 - Travel at Low Tide (between 65-feet and 68-feet) – 36 Vessels
 - Step Down Mast – 18 Vessels

Marina Reported Vessels

- 104 Vessels Reported that were not found during Vessel Survey
- 40 of 104 Vessels documented in Bridge Tender Logs from Jan. 2009 to June 2013
 - May not travel through Gallants Channel
 - Bridge tender logs could be inaccurate
 - May have travelled prior to 2009

Next Steps

- Submit Final Marine Assessment Report to US Coast Guard
- US Army Corps of Engineers Provides Permit to US Coast Guard
- US Coast Guard Makes Determination of “Navigational Opening”
 - If 65-ft opening is approved
 - Early 2014 to begin construction